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SLOVENIAN IRONWORKS MAKES NEW PRODUCTS

IRONWORKS MAKES MACHINE PARTS -- Borba, No 112, 12 May 49

The Gustanj Ironworks in Slovenia belonged to a family of German counts and barons for over 200 years before the liberation. The workers were treated as slaves, and the buildings and working conditions were a menace to health. Only a few of the old, dark buildings remain. Many have been torn down since the liberation and replaced with new, spacious, modern buildings. Equipment is being repaired, and production has doubled in volume and more than doubled in value.

The production of steel castings, the most important product of the ironworks, is now 20 times greater. The production plan for the entire ironworks for the first quarter 1949 was 17 percent greater than for the same period last year, but was met 100.1 percent.

When a steel part breaks and has to be cast, it is sent to the Gustanj Ironworks. Formerly, the proper kind of sand was not available, and the castings were not satisfactory. Many large machines in various enterprises could not operate for lack of parts. Eventually good sand was imported. Later, however, the chief engineer at the ironworks discovered a raw material from which sand could be made for molds. These molds do not have to be specially dried as foreign ones do. The large parts which could not be cast in molds made from domestic sand can be cast satisfactorily in the new ones.

A section of the tool plant at the ironworks makes parts for automobile wheels to be attached to the axle. In the past, the parts have been made from thick pieces of steel, resulting in considerable waste. Skilled lathe operators spent many hours on each part. Now, thick steel plates are being shaped into the form of the parts. When these dies are mounted in large punch presses in the automobile factories, the parts will be punched out by means of a single blow, and there will be no waste. Many other automobile parts, heretofore imported, will be made in the same manner.

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The ironworks has been very successful in making and perfecting machine parts of special and extra-hard steels. Last year the Jesenice Ironworks received from Czechoslovakia special rolling mills for the cold rolling of metal tape, which was never made in Yugoslavia before. When these rolling mills broke after a short time, the Gustanj Ironworks made new ones to replace them, so successfully that they are still operating and have required no repair.

Steel is rolled into shapes with triangular and semicircular cross sections, from which files will be made for the metal industry.

Complicated parts for all kinds of pneumatic tools and complete pneumatic sand-packers are also made.

Trainees and their teachers are now making steel inlays for the teeth of metal-cutting, circular saws. These scarce and badly needed parts were never made before in Yugoslavia, but are now in serial production. The trainees have also developed the prototype of a pneumatic cleaner, which is a special machine for removing rust, producing 6,000 strokes per minute. This is also in serial production. The trainees are now working on machines for boring holes in tools, shaping tools, and cutters made of special hard steels for many kinds of machinery.

NEW STEELS FOR YUGOSLAV INDUSTRY -- Borba, No 112, 12 May 49

Only ordinary steel was produced in prewar Yugoslavia, as a result of the steel monopoly policy. Therefore, machine tools could be made in Yugoslav firms only with the aid of the Austrian, German, Czech, and other firms manufacturing tool steel. In case of damage to the smallest part of a turbine or a pneumatic tool, a dynamo, or a fountain pen, the repair part had to be imported. Thousands of tons of ore were exported from Yugoslavia to make such parts.

Immediately after the Five-Year Plan was issued, the production of tool and special steels was undertaken in Yugoslavia on a high-priority basis. The Jesenice Ironworks was the pioneer producer. The quality steel it now produces for the machinery, automobile, shipbuilding, and other industries is at least as good as the imported product.

The Jesenice Ironworks furnishes steels for all mechanical parts of engines, for springs, ball bearings, and for wheels and landing gear. Carbon steel for parts for pneumatic tools, steels for drills and blades of machine tools, steel for rock drilling, steel for all kinds of knives, and steel for pens are made there. A highly alloyed steel of excellent quality developed there is used in many Yugoslav enterprises for dies for punch presses.

Among its customers, the Mariborska Livnica (Maribor Foundry) considers the special high-temperature steel, alloyed with wolfram, from which it makes the dies for its punch presses, to be longer-wearing and generally superior to the kind used previously. The automobile factory at Tezno praises the "EHV2" high-speed tool steel for lathe cutters, which was never produced in Yugoslavia before; and the "Rade Koncar" plant is using a punch press for cold pressing, a dynamo, and other essential equipment made from steel from Jesenice.

The Jesenice Ironworks now produces steel with special physical properties: stainless steel, fire-resistant steel, and many other chromium-nickel steels. A new water turbine for the hydroelectric power plant at Drevograd made of Yugoslav stainless steel has been giving good service for some time, whereas its first turbine, imported from Austria, rusted after a short period of use. Stainless steel is particularly useful for medical instruments. Fine screws for joining broken bones formerly imported, now have been made in the laboratory of the Jesenice Ironworks.

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MECHANIZATION IN A SERBIAN COAL FIELD -- Politika, No 13231, 7 May 49

The following operations at the Timok mines in Serbia have now been mechanized: drilling, cutting, ventilation, drainage, and transport under and above ground. The machine shop also has been mechanized.

A ropeway has been built from the Lubnica mine to the thermoelectric power plant at Zvezdan, an industrial railroad track several kilometers long has been built to the Rtanj mine, and the industrial track between Grliska Reka and the Hajduk Veljko mine has been repaired. Mechanization of the pits in the Timok coal field has been completed. The capacity of the compressors has been increased by about 190 percent; water-pumping equipment, over 230 percent; and pit transport facilities, over 350 percent. Such new machines as electric mining drills, electric shaking conveyors, and electric conveyor belts, of which there were none in this coal field until recently, have been put into service in some working places. The number of electric conveyors and winches, steam locomotives, and other machinery has been increased.

In the Bogovina, Rtanj, and Lubnica mines, certain pits were mechanized in 3-4 months by the introduction of a large number of electric drills, shaking conveyors, winches, and compressors.

Efforts are being made to recruit qualified and semiqualified mine workers now working in other employment nearby. There are about 200 of these near the Vrska Cuka mine and about 500 in Boljevac Srez.

In April the Dobra Sreca mine met its labor plan. Thus far 380 contracts have been signed with pit workers; 342 have been signed at the Podvis mine. The worst manpower shortage is at Vrska Cuka, which is operating at only 60 percent of its authorized strength.

The broad-face method of working has been introduced at the Bogovina mine, and preparations are being made for its introduction in the Rtanj mine. This method is not suitable for use at the Lubnica mine, where the method of concentration of working places and mechanized transport will be adopted soon.

NEW SAND PIT OPENED IN SLOVENIA -- Borba, No 111, 11 May 49

A new quartz-sand deposit has been opened near Birac in Novo Mesto Srez, in Slovenia. This pit will provide enough additional quartz sand to satisfy all the requirements of Yugoslav users and create some surplus for export.

Quartz-sand production will increase by at least 200 percent when enough workers are hired at the pit.

CONCRETE BLOCKS FOR MINERS' HOUSING -- Borba, No 108, 8 May 49

Eight apartment buildings for families and five for single persons were erected during 1947-1948 at the Aleksinac mines in Serbia. This year 40 more apartment buildings will be erected, to house 2,000 miners without families.

Because of a brick shortage, porous-concrete blocks are being made. These blocks reduce dampness in the walls to a minimum. They also provide very good insulation against sound.

One of these blocks takes the place of 22 bricks. Thus, 12,000 blocks have been poured instead of 264,000 bricks.

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EXPANSION AT LEAD SMELTER -- Rad, No 108, 7 May 49

Although there were no engineers at the plant, and in spite of shortages of materials, the workers at the Trepca smelter have comp ted the new lead-smelting furnaces at their new smelting plant.

BOSNIAN IRONWORKS EXPANDS -- Politika, No 13236, 13 May 49

A new open-hearth furnace was put into operation on 12 May at the Zenica Ironworks in Bosnia.

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